There is no proposal for setting up of Maritime University in Gujarat. However, there is a proposal to establish Indian Maritime University as a Central University in Chennai with campuses in Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam. Requirement of more Universities depends on experience gained from establishing the Indian Maritime University and other enabling factors like availability of land, resources and presence of Maritime Institutes in the region.

Vadodara-Mumbai expressway

730. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3351 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th April, 2008 and state:

(a) whether the Consultant has started the work for fixing of alignment (First phase) regarding Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway; and

(b) by when the bids are likely to be invited for the subsequent phases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The proposal for feasibility study has already been invited. After completion of feasibility study, the Request for Qualification is likely to be invited by the end of June 2009.

Enhancing port capacity

731. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maritime Board has been asked to enhance port capacity in respective States in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the date by which this decision is to be implemented by the Maritime Boards; and

(c) whether there is any provision of financial assistance from Centre for enhancing port capacity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has projected that the capacity of the Non-major ports will increase to 575 Million Tones Per Annum (MTPA) by 2011-12. However, the responsibility for the development for development of Non-major ports rests with the concerned State Governments or authorities constituted by the State Government for this purpose.

(c) There is a Scheme in the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways under which assistance is provided by the Government of India to State Governments for the purpose of preparing feasibility report, environment impact assessment studies, hydrographic and other technical service/advice, preparation of bid documents and similar purposes.

Six-laning of NH

732. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: